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Federal Tribunals.

The supreme court of the United States is not disposed to interfere with the rights of states. Of late every decision of this high tribunal, wherein it has been sought to curtail the right of a state to govern itself, has been in favor of the state. In this respect there is wide difference between the supreme court and the federal circuit and district courts. These courts are constantly endeavoring to annul state laws.

The right of loca lgoverment can not be successfully denied in any state. It is a principle of right which holds the union together. Even if state legislatures pass unwise laws, it is not for these courts to annul the same. The people have this power and it must always remain with them. The prime duty of a court is to interpret the law. As soon as the inferior federal court becomes impressed with this idea popular prejudice against them will be reduced accordingly.

The trouble in Virginia over the bonded debt, the prohibition law of Kansas and the oleomargarine law of Pennsylvania have all been considered by the United States supreme court and a decision rendered in favor of the states. While the state laws may prove objectionable to many, yet the wisdom of the court in permitting states to govern themselves will be generally commended.

True, the power of a state may be limited to the general good of the government, but at the same time it is well to limit the power of the government so that it cannot meddle in the local affairs of a state.

The supreme court is right, but the lower courts are wrong. Clothed with a little brief authority, a large per cent. of the judges of the inferior courts imagine themselves to be more powerful than the people. They override state laws with impunity and have the most profound contempt for state authorities. On the other hand, the higher court respects state laws and endeavors to encourage the belief that the people are competent to govern themselves.

In each of the three cases above referred to the supreme court has been forced to reverse the lower federal courts. In the Virginia case, a federal judge issued a mandate to imprison the attorney-general for refusing to violate a state law. An inferior federal court held that the state of Kansas had no right to prohibit the manufacture and sale of malt and spirituous liquors, and in the case from Pennsylvania a federal judge likewise held that a state could not prohibit the manufacture and sale of any imitation of butter and cheese.

There is much to commend in the rulings of the United States supreme court. They announce sound doctrine in regard to the rights of the people to govern themselves. — *Jefferson City Tribune.*

A Just Demand.

At the outset of the campaign for Democratic state nominations, it would be will for the press and people of the Southeast to make it distinctly known to their Democratic brethren of Missouri that we expect to see an old injustice to this section rectified before the year closes. We refer to the remarkable fact that no nomination by the Democratic party to the Supreme Bench has been made from Southeast Missouri, including its great city of St. Louis, since 1872—some *sixteen years* ago. Meanwhile all other parts of the state have been, and are now represented there.

On the retirement of Judge Norton in December next, there will remain on that bench Judge Sherwood from the southwest (Springfield), Judge Ray from the northwest (Carrollton), Judge Brace from the northeast (Paris) and Judge Black from Kansas City. The Southeast alone is now unrepresented. The Supreme Court is a permanent and continuing body. Nominations to it should be made with a view to give every quarter of the State a representation, in order that the whole people may feel themselves in sympathy with its membership. Hence the selections for it should be made with sole regard to the remaining membership of the court, irrespective of the other offices on the general State ticket.

That tribunal deals with the dearest and most sacred rights of the people of the Southeast as well as of other parts of the State, and, though its judges are able men, our own bar will bear comparison, in respect to learning and integrity, with that of any other quarter of the State. Is it just, then, that we should, for so many years, be ignored in the choice of supreme judges? The Southeast is the Gibralter of the Missouri Democracy. If it substantially agrees upon a candidate for this important office its just demand in that regard ought to be recognized.

From expressions of the press and people of our section it now appears that we will be able to unite upon a candidate who would ably represent us in the position named—a gentleman, born in the Southeast and well known to its people as an able jurist, an impartial judge and a true Democrat—who, though young enough to attack with vigor the huge docket of that court is yet sufficiently experienced as a lawyer and judge to be safely entrusted with the grave responsibilities of such an important office.

Our readers will readily understand that we refer to Judge Shepard Barclay, but the object of this article is not so much the advocacy of any particular man as to emphasize the justice of the demand which the Southeast intends to make for representation on the Supreme Bench of the State.—*Potosi Independent.*

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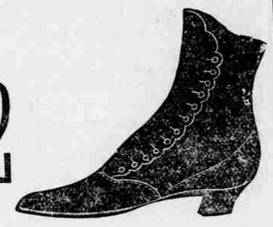

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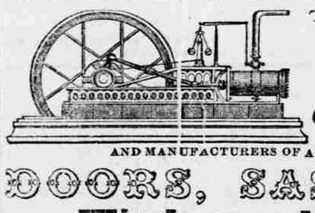

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